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Financial position of District Boards and Municipal Councils.

* 47 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the examination of the finances of the municipalities and local bodies has disclosed that some of them cannot afford to pay the revised rates of salaries and give retrospective effect to revised scales from January 1947;

(b) what those municipalities and local bodies are; and

(c) whether the Government propose to make up the deficit on this account by suitable grants?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"(a) & (b) The Hon. Member presumably refers to the financial position of the district boards and municipal councils to introduce the revised scales of pay sanctioned for teachers in schools under their control. The financial position of almost all the district boards and municipal councils is not sound.

"(c) The Government do not however propose to make up the full deficit on this account by grants. However, to put them in funds, they have sanctioned the enhancement of the rate of education tax and have given advances to enable the district boards and municipal councils to introduce the revised scales of pay for teachers in elementary schools. They have also, with a view to enable local bodies to meet the extra cost involved in the adoption of the revised scales of pay for the staff in secondary schools sanctioned the payment of teaching grants on the basis of half the net cost of maintenance of the schools in lieu of the fixed lump sum subsidies paid hitherto. This has afforded the necessary financial relief and the revised scales of pay have been adopted by all local bodies."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"In view of the answer that the financial position of almost all the district boards and municipal councils is not sound, will the Hon. Minister, instead of giving them advances to make up the deficit, make it a grant? The advances will never be recoverable."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"It is open to the Government to do whatever in future. But at present they have granted only advances."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Supply of rice and millets in rationed areas.

6 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the number of people to whom rice was supplied in each of the statutory rationed areas of the various districts of this Province as on the 1st December 1947; and the quantity so supplied for each area;

(b) the number of people to whom rice was supplied in the non-statutory rationed areas of the various districts on the aforesaid date; and the quantity so supplied;

(*c*) the number of people to whom millets and other foodgrains (other than rice) was supplied to each of the statutory rationed areas and in the non-statutory rationed areas of the various districts of the Province as on 1st December 1947; and the quantity so supplied; and

(*d*) the population in each of the statutory rationed areas of the various areas of the various districts as also the non-statutory rationed areas of the same as on 1st December 1947?

A.—Statements showing the ration card population and the quantities of rice, millets and other foodgrains supplied in the statutory and non-statutory rationed areas as on 1st December 1947 are placed on the table of the House.[a] On 1st December 1947 statutory and informal rationing was in force in all the areas of this Province and the ration card population was divided into four categories, viz. :—

(1) rice eaters;

(2) mixed diet eaters;

(3) millet eaters; and

(4) wheat or bread eaters.

Statistics regarding the number of persons who took their rations entirely in the shape of grains other than rice is not available.

Petrol quota for the Province.

7 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of petrol allotted by the Central Government for Madras Province for each quarter since 1st November 1946;

(*b*) the quantities of petrol distributed by the Madras Government in each quarter to the following categories of vehicles—

(i) motor cars:

(ii) lorries;

(iii) buses; and

(iv) other vehicles.

(*c*) whether any and what vehicles are classed as "essential" for the purpose of petrol rationing and if so, the basis of such classification;

(*d*) what is the position as regards stock and supply of petrol, at present:

(*e*) whether the Government have made any and what representations to the Central Government for increased allotment of petrol to this Province, and if so—

(1) the grounds on which such representations were based;

(2) the nature of the answers received;

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[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 49-52 infra.]

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(*f*) how and in what manner, the Government propose to make cuts in petrol rations (in the case of each class of vehicle);

(*g*) whether 'essential' vehicles will be affected by such cuts and to what extent; and

(*h*) how long such cuts in petrol rationing are likely to continue?

A.—(*a*) Please see statement [a] appended.

(*b*) Please see statement [b] appended.

(*c*) In the case of motor cars a list of essential users has been prescribed with reference to the nature of work or business done by them. As regards lorries, no classification has been made but rations are issued with due regard to the nature of work done by such vehicles and the general petrol position. Priority is shown in the following order:—

(1) Vehicles engaged in the transport of foodgrains and fuel.

(2) Vehicles engaged on construction works under contract with Government, local bodies or any public body.

(3) Vehicles exclusively engaged for the distribution of petrol and petroleum products.

(4) Vehicles belonging to industrial concerns.

(5) Public carriers used for transport of miscellaneous goods for public hire.

(6) Ex-military lorries.

(*d*) The final quota allotted by the Government of India for this Province for the current quarter ending 30th April 1948 is 3,762,000 gallons. A reserve of 57,000 gallons is kept with the Provincial Rationing Officer and the remaining quantity has been allotted to the various classes of vehicles. The Government of India have also recently sanctioned a special allotment of 30,000 gallons for agricultural pumpsets.

(*e*) This Government have been making repeated requests to the Government of India to increase the petrol quota for the Province. When they were addressed in July 1947 the main grounds urged were that the vehicles of this Province have to cover longer distance than in other Provinces, that because of intensive rationing of foodstuffs and firewood, extra petrol was required for transport vehicles, that the fuel position was acute and consequently vehicles running on producer gas had to be reconverted into petrol driven vehicles and that the total number of vehicles had increased.

The Government of India were not inclined to accede to our requests because of the dollar difficulty and in view of the unprecedented world demand for

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[a] Printed as Appendix VII on page 52 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 53 infra.

motor spirit as a result of which oil companies in India had warned them to bring down civil consumption to the level prevailing during the February and May/July 1947 rationing quarters.

The Provincial Rationing Officer also addressed the Government of India in January last to increase the province's quota for the current quarter but the Government of India have stated that the present supply position of petrol does not permit of any enhancement of the quota. However, as a result of representations made by this Government recently, the Government of India have sanctioned a special allotment of 30,000 gallons for agricultural pumpsets in view of the acute food situation and the failure of the North-East Monsoon.

(*f*) The cuts made are as follows:—

Goods vehicles.—Ten per cent cut in the case of essential vehicles and 15 per cent in the case of others.

Supplementary rations.—A cut of 15 per cent has been made for essential users of motor cars and motor cycles and $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent for others.

(*g*) Essential vehicles and vehicles industries will be affected by a cut of only 10 per cent.

(*h*) The Government have no information at present.

Buses and lorries running for hire in the Vizagapatam district.

8 *Q.*—Sri P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of buses and lorries run for hire in the Vizagapatam district during 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947;

(*b*) how many of them are run on petrol and gas; and

(*c*) what the amount received from licence fees is?

A.—(*a*) Please see statement[a] appended.

(*b*) Please see statement[b] appended regarding buses. Information regarding lorries is not available.

(*c*) The hon. Member apparently refers to permit fees. The permit fees received during the years 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947 were Rs. 1,864, Rs. 1,778, Rs. 6,328 and Rs. 2,848 respectively.

Number of students in Elementary Grade Training Schools.

9 *Q.*—Sri B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many students were admitted into the various Elementary Grade Training Schools in each district of the Province communitywar during the last twelve years; and

(*b*) how many of them have completed their training course?

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[a] Printed as Appendix IX on page 53 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix X on page 54 infra.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The time and labour involved in the collection of this information will not be commensurate with the results and so the Government regret they are unable to furnish this information.

Admission in the Secondary Training Schools.

10 *Q.*—Sri B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many students were admitted into the various Secondary Grade Training Schools in each district of the Province communitywar during the last twelve years; and

(*b*) how many of them have completed their training course?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The labour and time involved in the preparation of this information will not be commensurate with the result and so the Government regret that they are not able to furnish the information.

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* CLOSURE OF SCHOOL AT MAYAVARAM.

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, I rise to move for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance."

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have no notice, Sir."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" I gave you (Chairman) notice, Sir. Rule 37 says that notice should be given to the President and not to the Leader of the House. Let the Hon. Leader of the House read the rule."

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am only informing you, Sir, that I have not received any notice."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, the rules provide that I should give notice only to the President."

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" Notice must also be given to the 3.30 p.m. Government. Government have not received any notice. That is not proper."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Under the rules, notice to the Government is not at all necessary. What is required is notice to the President."

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" The Hon. the Minister concerned must also know."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, rule 36 says :

' A motion for an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the President.'